WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

New Trains on New Delhi-Nizamuddin-Nagpur sector

*285. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to introduce new trains on the New Delhi-Nizamuddin-Nagpur sector so that benefits start accruing to the people of the region early; and

(b) if so, the new trains proposed and the schedule of their introduction?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed in the Railway Budget 2001-2002 to introduce New Delhi-Bilaspur Rajdhani Express (Weekly) and Nizamuddin-Secunderabad Rajdhani Express (Weekly) with stoppages at Nagpur after making necessary arrangements in this regard.

Railway freight traffic

*286. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Railways have decided to take various measures to woo back freight traffic which, over the years, has gradually shifted to the roadways;

(b) whether the Railways have set a target of 500 million tonnes for 2001-2002 fiscal year;

(c) if so, to what extent this target is being achieved; and

(d) the measures initiated by the Railways to improve the railways freight which has been going down during 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As against a target of 120.50 million tones for the Ist quarter of